

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/464,449
Reply to Office Action dated June 23, 2004
Response dated September 23, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6, 10 and 13 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **June 23, 2004**.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, claim 13 has been amended. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 13 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-5 and 9-15 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Minakuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,001).

The present invention is an image formation device. This device includes an image storage device, a read-out device, an image transfer unit, and an accuracy information storage device. The image storage device stores image information. The read-out device assigns an image read-out

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position for the image storage device. The image transfer unit transfers the image to paper. The accuracy information storage device stores position accuracy information in the scanning direction of the image transfer unit. The position accuracy information is curvature correction information or dot-pitch correction information and oblique correction information.

Minakuchi et al. describes a scanning optical device that has correction data to compensate for the amount a spot beam is shifted due to curvature that varies according to scan position in the main scanning direction. Minakuchi et al. also mentions the use of a photoconductive drum (210) in which an image may be transferred.

Minakuchi et al. discloses a correction method for a polygon mirror. No correction method using curvature correction information and/or dot-pitch correction information as recited in amended claims 1 and 13 is disclosed or suggested by Minakuchi et al.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 13 patentably distinguish over the prior art relied upon by reciting, as exemplified by claim 1,

“An image formation apparatus comprising: an image storage means for storing image information; a read-out means for assigning an image information read-out position of the image storage means to read out the image information; an image transfer unit for transferring an image onto a paper in accordance with the image information read out by the read-out means from the image storage means; and an accuracy information storage means for storing unit curvature correction information and/or dot-pitch correction information, wherein said curvature correction information is obtained based on the measurement result of the position curvature information in the scanning direction of an exposure portion of the image transfer unit, and said dot-pitch correction information is obtained by measuring the dot-pitch of the exposure portion, wherein the read-out means has a means for reading out the position accuracy information from the accuracy information storage means and correcting the image information read-out position by the position accuracy information.” (Emphasis Added)

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Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 and 9-15 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Minakuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,001) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

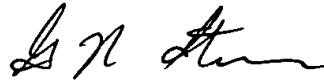
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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